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Unshrouding More Secrecy

✓ Two unrelated bills each aimed at imposing a greater measure of restraint on the Central Intelligence Agency, now are before Congress.

✓ One, introduced by Senator Cooper, Kentucky Republican, would require the agency to make its report available for Congressional scrutiny. The 1947 law which created the CIA does not forbid such inspection, but makes no specific provision for it.

The other bill, offered by Senator McGovern, South Dakota Democrat, would require the appearance of all CIA appropriations and expenditures in the budget. What the CIA spends and how it is spent now are concealed in the appropriations for various other agencies.

Ever since it was created the Central Intelligence Agency has been a mys-

terious arm of the Government so far as the public is concerned, operating in a cloak-and-dagger atmosphere. How useful it has been nobody not intimately acquainted with the administration of foreign policy knows. The suspicion, however, is strong — nurtured no doubt by the very secrecy that cloaks its operations — that it has been a meddling irritant in international affairs, getting the Nation into more foreign entanglements than it kept it free of.

Whether or not either or both of the measures here referred to should be enacted, the purpose back of them — stripping away some of the secrecy from this particular agency's activities, and bringing foreign affairs in general under greater Congressional control — is one of which most citizens, we believe, will approve.